

From: A.Lizard
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: public comment

quote from an interview with Bork at:
<http://www.linuxplanet.com/linuxplanet/opinions/4020/1/>

>Acceptance of the proposed settlement in U.S. v. Microsoft would clear the
>road for the company to extend its monopoly to most if not all aspects of
>computing, says Judge Robert H. Bork.
>
>"I don't think it does anything to Microsoft," said Bork in an interview
>with Linux Planet. "I think it just lets them continue as they were before."

For the US government to roll over and play dead in the context of the proposed settlement not only will mean that all the millions of dollars of taxpayer money spent to clearly and convincingly demonstrate that Microsoft used its monopoly power in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act will have been wasted, but will put a damper on the ability of the US computer industry to grow and innovate.

If the US DOJ and the courts *want* the future of computing in America to become increasingly influenced by foreign competition unfettered by a Microsoft monopoly effectively given the force of law by an unjust and unfair pseudo-penalty of the type proposed by DOJ, then the DOJ settlement should be enacted exactly as proposed.

The alternative is to provide a *real* penalty to Microsoft. Forcing them to reveal the proprietary information they have been using to make it impossible for third-party developers to write products for the Windows environment would be a good first step. Forcing them to stop using their monopoly power to dominate new markets by building products to fit them into their operating systems would be good. Fining them to remove the profit from actions which have been found to be illegal would be good.

If antitrust legislation is to stand, it must be enforced no matter how large the company or how large their political contributions are.

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>If that happens, he says, Microsoft's control is likely to extend beyond
>the software industry, leading to monopolies in areas including online
>access and the Internet.

new voicemail number,ask if you need it.
Personal Web site <http://www.ecis.com/~alizard>
Disaster prep info: <http://www.ecis.com/~alizard/y2k.html>
Littleton Killings: <http://www.ecis.com/~alizard/littleto.html>
backup address (if ALL else fails) alizard@onebox.com
IF YOU USE PGP, UPGRADE NOW! A major bug has been discovered in PGP, the
new version with the bug fixed is available NOW.
PGP 6.5.8 key available by request,keyserver,or on my Web site
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your own (W9x,NT,Mac) at <http://www.pgpi.org/products/nai/pgpfone/>
